

REMARKS

Claims 1-4 and 6-16 are now pending after the amendments. The amendments to the claims do not add any new issues since the basic invention is the same, and no new searching needs to be done. The amendments make clear that the first game is a random selection of symbols, and the bonus game is other than a random selection of symbols, so the bonus game is not a version of the first game.

Both the first game result and the bonus game result are displayed on the same video screen, and no additional hardware is used to generate the bonus game result. No claims are suggested by the cited art.

The examiner had previously relied on the patents to Manship and Marnell to reject the claims. Manship describes a "fever mode," which involves the random selection of symbols just like the main game. Therefore, Manship does not suggest Applicants' bonus game.

The Marnell invention is directed to a second display in a slot machine that must be viewable at all times, even when the main game is being played. Marnell's second display essentially accumulates the results from the regular game. For example, one of Marnell's displayed games is a bingo game whose grid accumulates outcomes from the main game. It would make no sense for the Marnell second display to be displayed on the same screen as the main game since Marnell's secondary games could then not be appreciated. Accordingly, the combination of Marnell and Manship would destroy the functionality of the Marnell invention, so there cannot be any suggestion to combine the two prior art devices.

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Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the amendments to the claims make all Claims 1-4 and 6-16 allowable.

Support for the Amendments

Support for the amendments is provided in Fig. 9 and throughout the specification. For example, page 20, lines 4-6, state, "In all embodiments described, the gaming machine may include a single CRT, or other video display, which displays both the main game and the bonus game." This means that all the main games and the bonus games described throughout the specification are displayed on a single video display. Additionally, on page 20, lines 17-22, it is stated,

Fig. 9 illustrates the machine of Fig. 8 except without a separate display for the bonus game. In Fig. 9, both the main game and the bonus game are displayed on a single CRT 806. The bonus game may be displayed in a separate section of the CRT 806 or may be displayed at intervals on the entire CRT display area.

Additionally, page 17, lines 30-32, states, "If the display is a CRT, then the bonus game, displayed on display glass 622 in Fig. 6, may be displayed on the same CRT as the main game." The display glass 622 in Fig. 6 shows the bonus game not being a random selection of symbols like the main game.

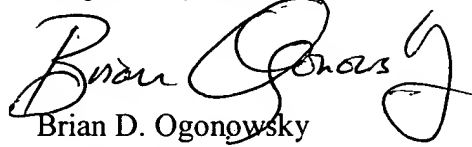
As seen, there is ample support in the specification for Applicants' amendments to Claims 1 and 4.

Should the Examiner have any questions concerning this response, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at (408) 453-9200.

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APPENDIX A

The following is a marked up copy of the amended claims.

1. (Twice Amended) A method of operating a slot machine, said method comprising:

generating a first game result pursuant to a first game, by displaying a combination of symbols randomly selected from [first indicia] a first set of symbols, using circuitry within said slot machine;

displaying said first game result on a video screen of said slot machine;

if said first game result meets certain criteria, initiating a bonus game, said bonus game being other than a random selection of symbols by said circuitry so as not to be a version of said first game, said bonus game generating and displaying a bonus game result[, by displaying second indicia,] using said circuitry and displaying said bonus game result on said video screen,

said generating and displaying said first game result and said bonus game result being performed by the same hardware in said slot machine so as to require no additional hardware to generate and display said bonus game result; and

granting an award to a player based on said first game result and said bonus game result.

4. (Twice Amended) A slot machine comprising:

circuitry within said slot machine for generating a first game result pursuant to a first game, by displaying a combination of symbols randomly selected from [first indicia] a first set of symbols;

a video display screen on said slot machine for displaying said first game result; and

circuitry within said slot machine for initiating a bonus game, said bonus game being other than a random selection of symbols by said circuitry so as not to be a version of said first game, said bonus game generating and displaying a bonus game result[, by displaying second indicia], if said first game result meets certain criteria, and displaying said bonus game result on said video screen;

wherein generating and displaying said first game result and said bonus game result is performed by the same hardware in said slot machine so as to require no additional hardware to generate and display said bonus game result.

5. (Cancelled).

7. (Amended) The machine of Claim 4 wherein said first [indicia] set of symbols represent[s] playing cards.

8. (Amended) The machine of Claim 4 wherein said first [indicia] set of symbols are symbols on a video reel.

9. (Amended) The machine of Claim 4 wherein said bonus game result comprises [second] indicia that fills a grid pattern.

10. (Amended) The machine of Claim 4 wherein said [second indicia include] bonus game result comprises letters.

11. (Amended) The machine of Claim 4 wherein said [second indicia include] bonus game result comprises numbers.

12. (Amended) The method of Claim 1 wherein said first [indicia] set of symbols represents playing cards.

13. (Amended) The method of Claim 1 wherein said first [indicia] set of symbols are symbols on a video reel.

14. (Amended) The method of Claim 1 wherein said [second indicia fills] bonus game result comprises indicia that fills a grid pattern.

15. (Amended) The method of Claim 1 wherein said [second indicia include] bonus game result comprises letters.

16. (Amended) The method of Claim 1 wherein said [second indicia include] bonus game result comprises numbers.

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